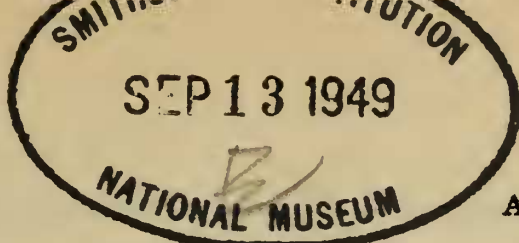


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TWO NEW ORIOLES FROM THE PHILIPPINES

BY E. T. GILLIARD

During current studies of Philippine birds based on large comparative collections recently obtained by a joint expedition of the American Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the Philippines to the peninsula of Bataan, two new races of *Oriolus chinensis* were found and the validity of a third form substantiated.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Ernst Mayr who has read the manuscript for many valuable suggestions.

An examination of 130 Black-naped Orioles from the islands of Fuga, Luzon, Mindoro, Samar, Negros, Mindanao, Basilan and the Sulus reveals the existence of five well-marked races, two of which remain to be named. Racial characters are predicated on depth of yellow forehead, degree of yellow on primary coverts and inner secondary tips, and, to a minor degree, on size. Generally speaking, the yellow forehead becomes narrower (with consequent increase in width of black nape band), and the yellow tips of the primary coverts and inner secondaries decrease to the point of obsolescence from north to south (N. Luzon to Basilan Island). In dimensions the species tends to become larger than average in Northern Luzon, extreme Southern Luzon and in the Sulu Islands. Distinct racial populations inhabiting north-central Luzon in the north and the Mindanao-Basilan area in the south are about equal in size.

Adult males and females are bright yellow. Meinertzhagen's observation (Ibis, 1923:72) that adult females have "back green, not yellow, central rectrices green, not black," applies to subadult females and immature males. Sexual dimorphism, as noted for this species in the Philippines, is restricted to a slight mean difference in size, the females being smaller.

Oriolus c. chinensis Linnaeus. Black-naped Oriole

Oriolus chinensis Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. i. 1766, p. 160: China (error), Cochinchina (ex. Brisson) = Manila, Meinertzhagen, (Ibis, 1923, p. 72).

In assigning a precise type locality to this race Meinertzhagen (1923: 72) writes: "... the name *chinensis* is clearly applicable to one member of this group, which induces me to accept it for the Philippine bird, to which the description and plate most closely agree. In the days of Brisson, type-localities were very vague and the Philippines might easily

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be held to be covered by the general term China. As the type locality of *chinensis*, I cite Manila."

Adult examples in the American Museum of Natural History from the vicinity of Manila (1 ♂, San Mateo; 1 ♂ San Juan, Laguna de Bai; 5 ♂ ♂, 4 ♀ ♀, Lamao, Bataan) agree well together. However, they are quite different from a long series of specimens from Sorsogon, extreme southern Luzon, and from a single specimen from Fuga island off the northern tip of Luzon, both of which are described below. In fact, the characters distinguishing each of the three races are sufficiently vivid to permit accurate field identification.

***Oriolus chinensis fugaensis* new subspecies**

Type: No. 670475. American Museum of Natural History (Rothschild Collection). ♀ ad. Fuga Island, off the coast of northern Luzon, Philippine Islands, April 15, 1895. Whitehead Collection.

Diagnosis: Nearest to *chinensis* but differing by reason of much more extensive yellow forehead patch and longer wings (see table of measurements). In *chinensis* the forehead patch is never more than 23 mm. in depth, terminating on the center-line of the crown just behind the eyes. In *fugaensis* the patch is 30 mm. deep terminating on the occiput.

Measurements of type: Wing 159 mm.; tail 104; bill from anterior edge of nostril 25; tarsus 29.

Range: Known only from the type locality.

MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail	Bill
<i>fugaensis</i>			
1 ♀ Fuga Island	159	104	25
<i>chinensis</i>			
3 ♀ ♀ Lamao, Bataan	148-154	96.5-100	24-25
5 ♂ ♂ Lamao, Bataan	151.5-155	98.5-105	24-26
1 ♂ San Mateo, N. of Manila	154	101	
1 ♂ San Juan, E. of Manila	156	102.5	25
<i>sorsogonensis</i>			
7 ♂ ♂ Sorsogon	156-164	102-111	24.5-26.5
6 ♀ ♀ Sorsogon	149-157.5	98-104	24.5-26
5 ♂ ♂ Tayabas	154.5-159	103.5-106.5	24.5-26
2 ♀ ♀ Tayabas	154	103-105	24.3-27
4 ♂ ♂ Mindoro Island	155-160	103-105	25-27
<i>yamamurae</i>			
1 ♂ Samar Island	158	102	26.5
1 ♀ Negros Island	157	108	25
5 ♂ ♂ Mindanao Island	153-156.5	100-106	25-28
2 ♂ ♂ Basilan Island	154-155	101-105	25-27
<i>suluensis</i>			
3 ♂ ♂ Sulu Islands	148-156.5	111-118	25-26

It is remarkable that the population of *chinensis* inhabiting the southernmost portion of Luzon should differ from birds living about Manila. Perhaps an explanation is to be found in the fact that the species *chinensis* thrives in the semi-open lowlands and is restricted both by

forested hills of moderate height and by belts of original tropical jungle. In this connection it is pertinent to note that a series from Infanta, on the eastern coast of Luzon at approximately the same latitude as that of Manila, which lies on the western coast, is closely similar to the southern Luzon race, now to be described:

Oriolus chinensis sorsogonensis, new subspecies

Type: No. 94316. American Museum of Natural History. ♂ ad. Sorsogon, southern Luzon, Philippine Islands. March 22, 1903. Collected by Dr. E. H. Porter.

Diagnosis: Similar to *chinensis* but with a much narrower yellow forehead and perceptibly larger wings and tail (see table of measurements). The yellow forehead patch is never more than 16 mm. deep with a maximal terminal point on the mid-crown between the eyes.

Measurements of the Type: Wing 159.5 mm.; tail 106; bill from anterior edge of nostril 26; tarsus 29.5.

Range: Southern Camarines province, Luzon. A series from northern Camarines (Tayabas) contains a few intermediates but in general is more closely related to *sorsogonensis*. This is true of 4 Mindoro ♂ ♂ which agree in size with Sorsogon ♂ ♂ but have somewhat larger yellow forehead patches; as observed in the series of ♂ ♂ from Tayabas. This race probably ranges to the islands of the Sibuyan Sea. One Samar island ♂ before me is intermediate between *sorsogonensis* and *yamamurae* but closer to the latter. It agrees with Sorsogon birds in size and depth of yellow forehead but retains the distinct black wings of the southern form.

Oriolus chinensis yamamurae Kuroda

Oriolus chinensis yamamurae Kuroda, 1927. *Tori*, vol. 5, no. 23, p. 257, (Basilan Island).

Five ♂ ♂ from Mindanao and 2 ♂ ♂ from Basilan Island are similar. Together they differ considerably from all other Philippine races by having wings black without yellow tipping on primary coverts and inner secondaries. Although described as differing from the nominate form mainly by smaller size, there is no appreciable difference, as pointed out by Mayr in Delacour and Mayr, 1945: *Zoologica*, Vol. 30, pt. 3, Nov. 15, 1945, p. 117).

In coloration *yamamurae* is similar to *suluensis* from which it differs by reason of a much shorter tail. It differs from the nominate form by having a much narrower forehead patch (not exceeding 12.5 mm. in depth) and, in this respect, is but slightly smaller than *sorsogonensis* which has the forehead patch not exceeding 16 mm.

Range: Mindanao and Basilan Islands. Also Samar? and Negros?

Remarks: A single Negros Island ♀ before me is slightly larger (wing and tail) than any in the Mindanao-Basilan series, but otherwise it is similar.